New oil and gas blocks for exploration

2351. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have offered 55 oil and gas blocks under the sixth round of bidding;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals along with the total estimates of oil and gas reserves;

(c) what percentage of India's oil and gas requirements will be met by domestic production once these blocks start production; and

(d) by when production from these block is expected to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government of India, on 23rd February, 2006, has offered 55 blocks comprising of 24 deep water, 6 shallow water and 25 onshore blocks under the sixth round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-VI). The bid closing date for these blocks is 15th September, 2006. These are exploration blocks where exploration of oil and gas is proposed to be carried out. The exploration period for any of these blocks is 7-8 years. The estimated gas reserve and likely production will depend on the size of the discovery, if any, after exploration. Hence, no estimate of reserves and production can be made at this stage.

Shortage of kerosene in Jammu

2352. SHRI T. S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quota of kerosene allotted to Jammu and Kashmir during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether there is acute shortage of kerosene oil in Jammuarea; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to increase the quota?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY Of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) The quantity *of* PDS